

Appl. No. 10/034,079
Amdt. dated June 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): [[A]] An electromagnetic energy absorbing fiber comprising an energy receptive additive capable of dielectric heating and a dielectric heating energy receptive additive wherein said fiber has a dielectric loss of between 0.5 to 15 and where the energy receptive additive is capable of absorbing electromagnetic energy at a frequency within the range of 0.01 to 300 GHz and melting the fiber in less than one second, and wherein the dielectric heating energy receptive additive is selected from the group consisting of ferrite, tin oxide, silicon carbide, calcium chloride, zircon, magnetite, alumina, and magnesium oxide.
2. (previously presented): The fiber of claim 1 and wherein said fiber has a dielectric loss of between 1 to 15.
3. (original): The fiber of claim 1 and wherein said fiber has a dielectric loss of between 5 to 15.
4. (original): The fiber of claim 1 having a dielectric loss tangent of between 0.1 to 1.
5. (original): The fiber of claim 4 having a dielectric loss tangent of between 0.3 to 0.7.
6. (original): The fiber of claim 3 further comprising a synthetic polymer selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polycaprolactones, polyamides, polyetheramides, polyurethanes, polyesters, poly (meth) acrylates metal salts, polyether, poly(ethylene- vinyl acetate) random and block copolymers, polyethylene -b- polyethylene glycol block copolymers, polypropylene oxide-b- polyethylene oxide copolymers and blends thereof.

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7. (canceled).

8. (original): The fiber of claim 5 wherein said energy receptive additive is present in an amount between 2 and 40 weight percent.

9. (original): The fiber of claim 6 wherein said energy receptive additive is present in an amount between 5 and 15 weight percent.

10. (currently amended): The fiber of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1 wherein said fiber is a bicomponent fiber selected from the type consisting of sheath/core and island in the sea.

11. (original): The fiber of claim 8 wherein said fiber is a sheath/core bicomponent fiber and said additive is present in said sheath.

12. (original): The fiber of claim 8 wherein said fiber is a sheath/core bicomponent fiber and said additive is present in said core.

13. (original): The fiber of claim 8 wherein said fiber is a sheath/core bicomponent fiber and said additive is present in said sheath and said core.

14. (currently amended): The fiber of claim ~~[[7]]~~ 1 wherein said fiber is a biconstituent fiber.

15. (original): The fiber of claim 8 wherein said fiber is crimped.

16. (original): The fiber of claim 8 wherein said fiber is extendible.

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17. (original): The fiber of claim 8 wherein said fiber is elastic.

18. (canceled).

19. (currently amended): [[A]] An electromagnetic energy absorbing fiber comprising [[a]] a synthetic polymer and a dielectric heating energy receptive additive in an amount between 5 and 15 weight percent, ~~synthetic polymer and~~ wherein said fiber has a dielectric loss of at least 0.5 and where the energy receptive additive is capable of absorbing electromagnetic energy at a frequency within the range of 0.01 to 300 GHz and melting the fiber in less than one second, and wherein the dielectric heating energy receptive additive is selected from the group consisting of ferrite, tin oxide, silicon carbide, calcium chloride, zircon, magnetite, alumina, and magnesium oxide.

20. (currently amended): A nonwoven web comprising electromagnetic energy absorbing fibers having [[a]] a dielectric heating energy receptive additive capable of dielectric heating and having wherein said fibers have a dielectric loss of between 0.5 to 15 and where the energy receptive additive is capable of absorbing electromagnetic energy at a frequency within the range of 0.01 to 300 GHz and melting the fiber in less than one second, and wherein the dielectric heating energy receptive additive is selected from the group consisting of ferrite, tin oxide, silicon carbide, calcium chloride, zircon, magnetite, alumina, and magnesium oxide.